



## Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 26, 22 – 28 June 2009

### SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ The Sobat River Corridor is set to reopen following UN intervention
- ✚ LRA attacks persist in both DR Congo and Southern Sudan
- ✚ Inter-clan fighting drags on in Lakes and Western Equatoria States

### I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

#### **Sobat River Corridor set to reopen for humanitarian aid and commercial cargo**

Humanitarian assistance will start moving along the Sobat River Corridor, providing relief to tens of thousands in Upper Nile and Jonglei States, says a press statement issued by the Office of the UN Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UN DRHC) in Southern Sudan, Ms. Lise Grande. On 26 June the UN DRHC met with the Acting Governor of Upper Nile State, Mr. Thon Mum Kejok and the Commissioners of the four counties along the Sobat Corridor namely; Baliet, Panyikang, Ulang and Nasir Counties. During the meeting, the parties agreed on the steps necessary to reopen the corridor from Nassir to Akobo. Reopening the route will allow the much-needed humanitarian aid and commercial goods to be delivered to at-risk populations, including 19,000 displaced people in hard-hit Akobo County, Jonglei State.

The meeting followed the attack on a WFP food aid convoy on 12 June in which 735MT of food was lost. The Head of the World Food Programme in Southern Sudan, Mr. Iain McDonald, who attended the meeting in Malakal said that the re-opening of the Sobat River Corridor to river traffic, both commercial and humanitarian, was vital if a long-term humanitarian disaster is to be avoided.

[SOURCES: UNDRHC Press Office]

#### **Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) carries out more attacks within Southern Sudan**

Government sources reported clashes between Ugandan forces (UPDF) and the LRA at a village called Ataki, 30 km southwest of Aba in DRC on three occasions between 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June. As a result UNHCR received over 300 Congolese civilians who crossed the border into Southern Sudan and registered as refugees at Lasu refugee settlement. On 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June, the LRA attacked Ezo Town and along the Yambio – Gangura road killing three people and looting food and property.

### II. CURRENT ISSUES

#### **About 250 people killed and 13,200 displaced in Lakes & Western Equatoria States**

A six months old conflict between ethnic groups in Wullu County, Lakes State and Mvolo County, Western Equatoria State is reported to have killed about 250 people and displaced over 13,200 people cumulatively. The Resident Coordinator's Support Office (RCSO) in Lakes State reported new IDPs in Rumbek East County (6,237 IDPs), in Cueibet County (1,977 IDPs) and in Wulu (4988 IDPs). An unspecified number of additional IDPs in Kozi, Maridi County, has been reported the UNMIS Yambio Office.

[SOURCES: RCSO, OCHA]

### **III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS**

#### **Returns & Reintegration**

##### **Joint Organized Return Plan**

- IOM under the Joint Organized Return Plan facilitated the return of 116 households composed of 236 individuals from Juba to Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State. The convoy departed on 25<sup>th</sup> of June.

[SOURCES: IOM]

#### **Refugees, Returns and Re-integration**

- This week 1,183 returnees have reached home in Southern Sudan. Of these 1,177 persons (292 families) came from Uganda to Central and Eastern Equatoria States under the organized voluntary repatriation and 6 persons (2 families) came from Uganda to Eastern Equatoria State under the assisted voluntary self-repatriation programme.
- Ethiopian Anuak refugees in Malakal residing at the UNHCR way station under unsustainable conditions are still awaiting land allocation from the government. They have repeatedly expressed their wish to be relocated to Eastern Sudan, which is not a feasible option. UNHCR Malakal has convinced SSRRC to do formal registration of the Ethiopian refugees in Malakal. The director agreed to participate, and the joint registration exercise will commence following training of UNHCR and SSRRC staff.

[SOURCES: UNHCR]

### **IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR**

#### **Disease Outbreaks**

- No new cases of suspected Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF) have been reported from Abyei. Five cases had been reported there last week. A team of specialists from MSF Swiss is on the ground to monitor the situation.
- Six cases of Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) are reported in Torit, Eastern Equatoria State.
- Two cases of Measles were reported among Congolese refugees in Yei, Central Equatoria State.
- Eleven new Cholera cases reported were from Aweil East and Aweil South. In total there have been 38 cases of Cholera in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) this year as part of this outbreak. WHO and agencies are coordinating the response from Aweil.

[SOURCES: OCHA]

#### **Health**

- Since the launch of the Accelerated Child Survival Initiative (ACSI) on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009, an estimated 23,500 children under the age of five years (75% of the target) and 28,000 women of child bearing age (73%), including 4,200 pregnant women, have received an integrated package of basic health and nutrition services, including household bed nets, Measles vaccination, de-worming tablets, and Vitamin A supplements, hygiene and exclusive breastfeeding promotion education, and nutrition screening, in Yambio County, Western Equatoria State.
- Accelerated Child Survival Initiative (ACSI) pulse campaign also started in Aweil South County, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State on 22 June. The delivery of the basic package is expected to reach all payams and bomas in the county, targeting 33,951 children under the age of five and women of childbearing age.
- UNICEF supported a four-day refresher training on effective surveillance and early reporting skills for 10 members of the emergency surveillance team from six counties in Central Equatoria State. This is expected to strengthen and improve reporting on disease surveillance, including vaccine-preventable diseases.
- UNHCR, WHO and ACROSS signed a memorandum of understanding to provide technical and financial support towards Congolese refugees in Lasu settlement in CES and Ethiopian refugees in Lologo settlement in Juba. In this collaboration, WHO will provide medical

supplies and capacity building support for health workers while UNHCR through an implementing partner ACROSS will implement health as well as water and sanitation sector activities.

[SOURCES: UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA]

#### **Nutrition**

- In Akobo, Jonglei State, MSF Holland screened over 1000 children and admitted 167 to their therapeutic feeding programme. Of these, 47 were severely malnourished (70% weight-for-height). Medair are on the ground and will continue treating undernourished children.
- A total 400 children under the age of five from 190 randomly selected households have been screened in Yambio County, Western Equatoria State of which 10% showed a sign of malnutrition, according to a preliminary report.
- UNICEF provided 300 cartons of plumpy nut to the State Ministry of Health, Upper Nile for their three therapeutic feeding centers of Malakia, Bam and Kodok to treat an estimated 470 malnourished children under the age of five.

[SOURCES: MSF Holland, UNICEF, OCHA]

#### **Food Aid**

- An interagency assessment team comprising of WFP, UNMIS-RRR, OXFAM, WWI, IRC, SRRRC, SP, UNRCO, UNDP, UNICEF and CHF continued with the verification exercise of IDPs in Wulu County, Lakes State to identify the humanitarian needs and recommend appropriate response. During the reporting week, a total of 13,202 individuals were verified and registered in the three Counties recently affected by inter-clan conflict as reported above. WFP Rumbek Sub office is planning to distribute 234MT of food commodities for 30 days to verified IDPs.

[SOURCES: WFP]

#### **Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter**

- Save the Children-UK in partnership with UNICEF distributed NFI kits to 2,005 IDP and returnee households in Akobo West and Nyirol Counties, Jonglei State. A further distribution is planned on 30<sup>th</sup> June for the IDP and returnee households in Walgak, Akobo West County.
- In Unity State, SC-UK also distributed NFI kits to 238 households in Leer and Koch counties who are returnees from north Sudan and neighboring countries. All of the NFI kits are procured and transported to the counties by UNICEF as part of the NFIs Common Pipeline scheme.
- 1,300 IOM NFI kits were transported to Ezo for distribution in Nandi and Ezo. Distribution will take place in the next few days.

[SOURCES: UNICEF, IOM]

#### **Water and Sanitation**

- Six new boreholes, providing access to safe water for 3,000 people in Yambio, Western Equatoria State were drilled with UNICEF support.
- IOM in Warrap drilled 20 boreholes that were installed with hand pumps in Tonj County.

[SOURCES: UNICEF, IOM]

#### **Protection**

- Up to 63 returnee children (23 girls and 40 boys) were assisted to return to school by UNICEF. Demobilized children in Malakal were enrolled into psychosocial activities conducted by CHORM, including sports activities during 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> June.
- As a part of the community based integration programme, UNICEF supported the follow-up of two children who were demobilized and returned to their families in Abwong Payam, Baliet County, Upper Nile State.

- UNICEF, in collaboration with ICRC, supported the reunification of a 12 year-old Congolese child who was under foster care with his family in Central Equatoria State.

[SOURCES: UNHCR, UNICEF]

#### **Mine Action**

- UNICEF partner, CMCM continued to carry out a mine awareness sessions through Naath FM Radio in Leer, Unity State targeting 25,000 people in four counties of Leer, Mayiendit, Koch and Panyijar.
- UNICEF partner, CHORM visited two child victims of landmines injured by UXOs in Malakal South last month. The children are receiving treatment at the Malakal Teaching Hospital and they were provided with counseling.

[SOURCES: UNICEF]

## **V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS**

- Inter-agency assessment reports, humanitarian situation monitoring and gap analysis matrices may be obtained from OCHA EP&R – [ep@southsudan@un.org](mailto:ep@southsudan@un.org).

**END**

**Disclaimer:** The information in this report is consolidated from OCHA field reports, UN agencies, RCO at state level, NGOs, and other humanitarian partners. The report is subject to availability of data and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments to the current issue, please contact: [maputseni@un.org](mailto:maputseni@un.org)